The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The greatest of all injustice is that which goes under the name of law.—D'Estrange.

WHOLE NO. 849. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1927. VOL. 17, NO. 18.

## ENGLAND THROBS WITH PROTESTS AGAINST ANTI-TRADE UNION BILL

London, England, July 16.—Workers continue their opposition to the anti-trade union bill that passed the House of Commons by a vote of 354 to 189. The bill is now before the House of Lords.

Labor's antagonism was shown by demonstrations in 26 industrial centers throughout England and Scotland. The London meeting, held in a heavy rain, was the largest in the history of Hyde Park, the Mecca of all reform movements for more than a century. A score of speakers' platforms were erected in the vast area.

The result of these demonstrations, it is said, will be an intensive effort throughout the nation to secure 100 per cent membership of the trade unions, the Labor Party and co-operatives to continue opposition to the government and its blacklegs' character.

George Hicks, chairman of the general council of the British Trades Union Congress, voiced the general belief among workers that the House of Lords will pass the bill. "The act will set up a state of constant legal friction and legal entanglements," said Mr. Hicks. "In spite of provisions to the contrary, we will reserve for ourselves the right to strike. We shall protest and fight against the barriers of law, the barriers of prejudice and the barriers of privilege."

Officials of the co-operative movement, representing 5,500,000 members, take the same position.

On the final vote in the House of Commons, the Liberal Party, consisting of 40 members, presented a sorry figure. One-half of them voted. Seven of the Lloyd George party voted with the Tories.

No recognized trade unionist official favors a general strike against the bill. With one accord these workers call for unity and education. They insist that the government will be defeated at the first opportunity afforded the voters to express their judgment on the act.

Every worker that is jailed and every trade union treasury that is confiscated under this act will strengthen opposition to the government.

## EUROPE IS BROKE; WAR TALK IS BLUFF

Indianapolis, July 16.—War talk in Europe is bombast, says Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, writing in the official journal of that organization. Mr. Tobin recently made an extended visit to Europe. He says war threats should not be taken seriously because of Europe's poverty and the growing intelligence of the masses.

Mr. Tobin makes this comment on Italy and its dictator:

"Mussolini, with all his mouthings and splutterings, has no more intention of bringing Italy into war with any of the large countries than I have of trying to duplicate the work of Lindbergh. He dare not tackle a smaller country, much as he would like to, because standing over each of these smaller countries is a more powerful nation.

"Italy has no raw material, no coal, oil, iron or steel. These great staples, which make a country prosperous and powerful, must be imported.

"The Italian lira has advanced from 4 to 5 cents within the year, but the bulk of the people are so impoverished that substantial wealth has not accumulated. Italy's credit is fairly sound just now, according to financial reports, but in truth that country is standing on the brink of a precipice, not knowing from day to day what will happen.

"There is as much despotism and destruction of individual freedom in Fascism, or one-man government by Mussolini, as there is in the destructive government of Lenine."

## CITY MAY SEIZE LAND TO BUILD TENEMENTS

New York, July 16.—Mayor Walker wants the city to condemn private-owned land adjacent to parks and build thereon substitutes for tenement houses that menace the health and welfare of this city.

The Legislature would have to give the city authority to take such action. The State constitution provides:

"The Legislature may authorize cities to take more land and property than is need for actual construction in the layout for widening, extending or relocating of parks, public places, highways or streets; provided, however, that the additional land and property so authorized to be taken shall be no more than sufficient to form suitable building sites abutting on such park, public place, highway or street. After so much of the land and property has been appropriated for such park, public place, highway or street as is needed therefore, the residue may be sold or retained."

Under this section, according to the mayor, the city can lease land acquired by such condemnation proceedings for 99 years at a rental of 4 per cent of the land value, which will yield a sufficient return to take care of the carrying charges and the money expended by the city taking title.

## PAN-AMERICAN LABOR FACE GRAVE PROBLEMS

Washington, July 16.—The fifth congress of the Pan-American Federation of Labor convenes in Washington on July 18. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor and chairman of the Pan-American, will preside.

The following countries will be represented by delegates: United States, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Porto Rico, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Peru, Costa Rica and Salvador.

Five other countries approve the Pan-American Federation of Labor and its policy, but will not be directly represented.

During the past year the activities of the Pan-American have been widened. The report of the executive council will give a detailed report of the part played by the American Federation of Labor and the Pan-American Federation of Labor in various crises south of the Rio Grande.

## LABOR ASKED TO SHUN MONEY PLEA BY REDS

Washington, July 16.—Appeals to organized labor for financial aid for striking fur workers in New York is a money-getting scheme of Communists. The appeal is signed by Ben Gold, L. Landy and Louis Hyman.

There is no strike on for manufacturers and the legitimate union of fur workers.

"Ben Gold is not connected with the A. F. of L. or with the International Fur Workers' Union. He was legally expelled from that latter organization," said President Green in a statement to organized labor. Gold is leading a dual movement and is now upon the non-membership of the A. F. of L. for funds.

"If the members of organized labor answer Gold's appeal they aid this dual organization that is committed to Communism," said President Green.

## NEW EVIDENCE SOUGHT BY SACCO COMMITTEE

Boston, July 16.—William G. Thompson, counsel for Sacco and Vanzetti, has been invited by the Governor's committee to present any new evidence he may have. This is the first time the committee permitted the prisoners to offer testimony under their counsel's direction.

Under the committee's ruling new evidence which was not placed before the jury nor was set up in any of the motions passed upon by Judge Thayer, before he refused to grant a new trial and which has not been given to Governor Fuller, will be given to the committee and may have an important bearing on their report to the Governor when that official announces his final decision.

The committee was appointed by the Governor to aid him in reviewing the mass of testimony connected with this seven-year-old case. The members are: President Lowell, Harvard University; Dr. Stratton, president Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Judge Robert Grant.

### BAKERS RAISE WAGES

New Haven, Conn., July 16.—Organized bakers are victorious in a 16-weeks' strike. A union-shop agreement calls for the eight-hour day and an increase of $5 a week. One large shop has been added to the union list.

### RETAIL CLERKS UNITE

Warren, Ohio, July 16.—Retail clerks have organized and are affiliated to the Retail Clerks' International Protective Association.

## BRITISH COAL OWNERS WOULD ALLAY UNREST

London, England, July 16.—With their industry demoralized, coal owners plead that conditions would be worse if the work day had not been increased one hour, following the miners' defeat.

The coal owners are masters. There is no substantial force that can check the downward course of working conditions.

Statistics show that in the five principal fields, profits have either been less the last year or has been turned into a loss.

Output has increased, but this has intensified the struggle for markets and lowering of work conditions.

The miners declare that the coal owners have used the reduction in cost for price cutting and competitive purposes. "There is a greater crisis, from a financial standpoint, than there was last year, with no prospect of improvement in the international situation," they say.

"How different would have been the position," says the South Wales Miners, "if the coal owners had, even at the beginning of this year, begun the task of putting the industry in order. But it is evident that no such measure of common sense can be expected."

## WM. J. TRACY DEAD; PASSING UNEXPECTED

Washington, July 16.—William J. Tracy, secretary-treasurer of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., died suddenly of double pneumonia in a local hospital. He was 46 years of age and leaves a wife and five children. The funeral was in Philadelphia, where his family resides. He was a member of the Plumbers' Union.

He was elected secretary-treasurer for one year at the El Paso convention of the department in 1924. The following year he was re-elected for three years.

He was active in the labor movement for nearly a quarter of a century. He was a delegate to and participated in his home city, and also served as conciliator in industrial disputes for the Federal and State Departments of Labor.

### CARL BERGSTROM PASSES

Rockport, Mass., July 16.—Carl Bergstrom, president of the Paving Cutters' Union of the United States and Canada, died at Gloucester, his union in A. F. of L. conventions for 14 years. Frank A. Peterson will serve the union.

### EDWARD W. MOROCCO DEAD

Washington, D. C., July 16.—Former president of Columbia Typographical Union and a candidate in 1918 for the U. S. presidency against Marsden Scott, Edward W. Morocco died in this city from paralysis, at the age of 59.

### CHICAGO'S NEW SCHOOL DEDICATED TO GOMPERS

Chicago, July 16.—A new public school, dedicated to the late Samuel Gompers, was opened with fitting ceremonies by Mayor Thompson and trade union officials.

The mayor, Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L., Grant Perkins, former president of the Cigarmakers' International Union, and John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, were the principal speakers. The ceremonies were broadcast by WCFL station, owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

The Chicago Central Labor Council was also represented, as the school is located in that section. A bronze tablet in honor of the late A. F. of L. executive is placed just outside the assembly hall in the building.

### WANT WORKERS PROTECTED

Montreal, Canada, July 16.—The Trades and Labor Council requests the government to make a survey of faulty scaffolding that cause accidents and fatalities among workers. These accidents are not always reported by contractors.

## CHARITY, WELFARE WORK AND LAW ARE NOT TRADE UNION SUBSITUTES

Chicago, July 16.—The union succeeded where charity, welfare work and law failed, is one of the stirring statements on the part of the Ladies' International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union that was broadcast by station WCFL, owned and controlled by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

"For 30 years several generations of workers made many attempts to rise above the level of the sweatshop. They failed, and all those who could, escaped from the misery of the needle trades into fields of American life. But the industrial group as a whole discovered that it had to seek economic salvation collectively within the industry. Moved by this idea, 100,000 men and women across the sweatshops of republic developed into an industrial revolution. The sweatshop worker was transformed into an intelligent citizen. He began a new and constructive struggle for the democratization of his workshop and for the Americanization of his home.

"Only 17 years lie between the beginning of that revolution and the present day. But within the short space of these years is crowded a complex industrial development, the significance of which transcends the limits of the women's clothing industry.

"The change in the life of the women's garment workers, from the early sweatshop to the present status of industrial citizenship, is incomprehensible unless related to one fundamental fact. That is the growth of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The struggle of this union from 1900 to 1909, and its sudden rise in 1910, are transforming factors. But what is more significant is that the union succeeded where charity, welfare work and the law had failed.

"Without the union there might have been a pathetic tale of suffering from unemployment, occupational disease and other ills of industrial life. But there could be no industry. The record of achievement, of higher wages, of the reduction of hours to 44 and 40 per week, of the persistent planning which has made the worker a participant in the shaping of his own industrial destiny, would have been impossible. The history of the women's garment workers since 1900 is, therefore, the history of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union."

## *Bankers Hold Mortgaged Farms; Would Trick European Peasants*

St. Paul, Minn., July 16.—Financial interests are discussing the formation of a $25,000,000 corporation to take off bankers' hands land that was turned over to them by deflated and bankrupt farmers of the Northwest.

It is hinted, says the Minnesota Union Advocate, that the scheme of the promoters is to get immigrants with low standards of living to come to the Northwest and buy these lands at high prices and work the rest of their lives for land speculators. To permit the entrance of these peasants it is proposed to urge changes in the immigration law.

Millions of acres of land were bought at high prices during the war and were mortgaged at the then market price. When the farmers were defeated, and mortgages came due, the farmers figured it would be cheaper to relinquish their equity in the land than to pay off the mortgage. In a majority of cases it was impossible for them to redeem the land, as the low prices they were getting for farm products and the high prices they paid for manufactured articles left them no surplus.

The farmers have been drifting to the cities, where they are competing with industrial workers while the bankers are in possession of an enormous amount of unoccupied land that is steadily declining in price and is wiping out the value of the security held for money lent.

With no interest coming in, and a constantly lowering of farm land values, says the Minnesota Union Advocate, the bankers are figuring how they can unload on European peasants.

## MUSSOLINI'S ANCIENT SYSTEM

Mussolini's "labor court" is functioning. The first case is a dispute between rice growers and workers. The former insist on wage cuts and the employes protest that rates are now below the living line. The court appointed two experts to investigate and make recommendations.

Regardless of the outcome, the workers will lose. If they strike for a living wage or against a reduction they will be fined and jailed.

The lockout is also outlawed, but this weapon is not needed by employers when the government protects them from strikes or wage demands.

No group of workers is recognized by the State unless they avow their belief in Mussolini's autocracy.

The ancient system of handcuffing workers to their task is heralded as something new.

## WANT FREE HAND TO INJURE WORKERS

The Ohio constitution provides that where an employer fails to obey safety laws of that State, and a worker is injured through such failure, he (the employer) shall pay an additional 50 per cent of the maximum compensation allowed by law.

Ohio employers are contesting this constitutional provision. The Ohio State Supreme Court refused to listen to their plea and they will carry the case to the United States Supreme Court.

What one considers the purpose of the 50 per cent penalty, no comment on the employers' action is necessary.

## STOCKHOLDERS HELD FOR 2 WEEKS' WAGES

Springfield, Ill., July 16.—The General Assembly passed pioneer legislation when it approved Senator Thompson's bill which makes stockholders or corporations liable for two weeks' wages of employes.

The assembly defeated an old-age pension bill, a women's eight-hour bill and the anti-yellow dog bill. Several labor bills were passed. These include a barbers' and an electrical workers' qualification law, increasing the powers of the latter's pension, strengthening the workmen's compensation act and improving the State mining laws.

The cossack bill was defeated, as was a proposal to place municipal power and operated public utilities under control of the State Commerce Commission.

Illness and death played havoc in the ranks of labor's friends. Three members of the Legislature, whose past actions proved they could be depended upon, died after election and before the Legislature convened. Two were confined in hospitals because of illness during the entire session, and another, who was elected alderman in Chicago, could not come to the State capital and vote on labor measures as his Chicago office would be declared vacant under the law.

### MINERS WON'T BE DRIVEN OUT OF COMPANY HOUSES

Pittsburgh, July 16.—The Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation is making little progress in attempting to drive locked-out miners from its company houses. The miners have appealed eviction cases to the State Supreme Court.

The company is attempting to make the unionists leave by stopping deliveries of food, milk and other supplies to the houses and by shutting off the water.

### STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Hendersonville, N. C., July 16.—Officers of the North Carolina Federation of Labor have issued a call for the twenty-first annual convention to convene here August 8.

## GARRETT IS OPPOSED BY TENNESSEE LABOR

Nashville, Tenn., July 16.—Organized labor in this State opposes Congressman Garrett's candidacy for nomination for United States Senator in next year's primaries. He is leader of his minority party in the House.

"During his long service in Congress he was against many labor and progressive measures," says David Hanly, legislative chairman of the Tennessee Federation of Labor.

"The measures he fought include the woman's suffrage amendment to the Constitution and the child labor amendment. He fought the Howell-Barkley railroad bill and he favored disgruntled Blanton's amendment to the postal employes' retirement bill which would exclude members of organized labor from its benefits."

Congressman Garrett was denounced at a joint meeting of trade union and railroad brotherhood representatives last year.

Memphis, Tenn., July 16.—"Garrett is reactionary," declares Editor Cohen of the Labor Review in a leading editorial denouncing Congressman Garrett's candidacy against Senator McKellar.

"His heart does not respond to the progressive aspirations of the people," the labor editor said. "He represents the reactionary class.

"Can Tennessee proclaim to the nation that she is a reactionary State?"

## ALABAMA PRIMARY LAW UNDER MACHINE ATTACK

Montgomery, Ala., July 16.—Machine politicians and the Alabama Power Company are attempting to annul the State primary law. The act permits a vote for first and second choice candidates which may be added to to make a majority for a given candidate if necessary.

Under the pending bill a run-off primary would be necessary unless candidates are chosen by a majority vote in the first primary.

"This is a vicious bill," said Congressman George Huddleston. "The purpose of this bill is to help well organized and well financed minorities to overthrow majorities through the use of money and trickery. It will increase the power of machines, cliques, corporations and selfish interests. The public welfare requires that it be defeated."

### RAILROADS MAY USE AIRPLANE SERVICE

Cedar Point, Ohio, July 16.—Five large railroad companies are considering the airplane as an aid to their passenger service, said William F. MacCracken, jr., Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aviation.

"None of the lines actually have commenced operations for such service, but I have little doubt but what marked progress in that direction will be made within a year," Mr. MacCracken said.

### VACATION FOR LABORERS

Fall River, Mass., July 16.—Several hundred street laborers will be benefited by a ruling that they come under an ordinance that provides two-weeks' vacation with pay for municipal employes.

### THEATERS CUT WAGES

Memphis, Tenn., July 16.—Three theaters in this city controlled by the Loew interests are attempting to cut wages of movie operators.

## COMMISSION THAT WILL VISIT RUSSIA HAS NO CONNECTION WITH A. F. OF L.

Washington, July 16.—President Green of the A. F. of L. has learned that a commission composed of 10 trade unionists, with a large staff of economists, has been formed to visit Russia. Albert Coyle, editor the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' Journal, is the guiding spirit in the commission, which consists of the following:

**L. E. Sheppard, president Order of Railway Conductors, chairman of the delegation.**

**William H. Johnston, Machinists' Union.**

**E. J. Manion, president Order of Railroad Telegraphers.**

**Phil E. Ziegler, editor the Railway Clerk.**

**Timothy Shea, assistant president Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers.**

**John Brophy, former president District No. 2, United Mine Workers.**

**Frank Palmer, editor Colorado Labor Advocate, Typographical Union.**

**William Mitch, secretary Indiana district, United Mine Workers.**

**Albert F. Coyle, editor Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' Journal.**

**John Fitzpatrick, president American Artists' and Actors' Federation.**

**Dr. Jett Lauck and Prof. Jerome Davis of Yale University will head the economists, who may be joined, it is rumored, by Prof. Paul H. Douglas of Chicago. Frank P. Walsh will be counsel.**

In a statement given wide circulation, but not made public, explanation is made to persons "of means" who are "outside the ranks of organized labor" to contribute $20,000. This appeal follows:

"Because of the large public service to be rendered, the American trade union delegation feels justified in calling upon persons outside the ranks of organized labor to help defray the cost of employing its staff of economic experts, of paying their traveling expenses and of covering the publication and distribution of the resulting report. The cost of this economic research will be approximately $20,000. Since the trade union delegation does not desire publicity in regard to its plans until its task is completed, the required amount is being requested in contributions of from $500 to $1,000 from persons of means who appreciate the high value of the public service undertaken by the delegation. The finance committee appointed by President L. E. Sheppard, chairman of the delegation, consists of Timothy Shea, E. J. Manion and Timothy Shea."

The statement contains the further information that the delegation "has already received the assurances of Senator William B. Borah of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, that a special session of the committee will be called to hear and consider this economic survey upon the return of the delegation from Russia."

President Green states that this delegation in no way represents the American Federation of Labor nor is it authorized to speak for the American Federation of Labor.

## FALL AND DOHENYS MUST STAND TRIAL

Washington, July 16.—Justice William Hitz of the criminal division of the District of Columbia Supreme Court has ruled that former Secretary of the Interior Fall and the Doheny, father and son, must stand trial under an indictment charging $100,000 bribery.

The government claims the passing of the money was in connection with the transfer of oil leases to the elder Doheny.

The defense acknowledged that President Harding's order of May 31, 1921, transferring control of the oil lands from the Navy Department to the Interior Department was illegal. The defendants held that as the transfer was against the law it had no authority to make the transfer and therefore could not be bribed. Justice Hitz rejected this sharp reasoning.

The acts complained of, said the court, were just as reprehensible and punishable by law as though Fall had been authorized by Congress to act, "and that his action, alleged to have been corruptly influenced, was official action."

The invalidity of President Harding's order has been settled by the courts in the civil cases involving the Elk Hills and Teapot Dome leases, which were decided in favor of the government.

## IRISH LABOR CHIEF KNOWN IN AMERICA

Washington, July 16.—Dublin cables indicate that the Irish Labor Party, with 22 members, will be the government's opposition in the Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament). The leader of the party is Thomas Johnson, who was fraternal delegate from the Irish Trades Union Congress to the American Federation of Labor convention at Atlantic City two years ago.

The general election last month resulted in the election of 44 Republicans, headed by de Valeria. This group refused to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown as provided when the Irish Free State was established. The Republicans were refused seats. In organizing the Dail, other groups entering labor, voted for the re-election of Speaker Cosgrove.

Speaking for the Labor Party, Mr. Johnson opposed Mr. Cosgrove's re-election because, he said, the government failed to respond to the needs of the people in social and economic matters.

The Labor group holds a strategic position and this will undoubtedly result in remedial legislation.

### FEDERAL SEAMEN'S ACT VIOLATED BY OWNERS

San Francisco, July 16.—Vessel owners continue to violate the La Follette seamen's act which prohibits long hours of employment for sailors, firemen, oilers and watertenders.

The 12-hour day is the owners' objective. Under this system the men must eat and dress on their watch below, as they actually have only about 10 hours for themselves out of the 24.

Seamen are exposed to life and limb in times of danger and they insist on sufficient time for sleep and recreation.

### ARE FASCISTS DIVIDING?

New York, July 16.—A Geneva cable to the New York Tribune says a breach in the Facist party in Italy is threatened. Internal strife has reached such a point, it is stated, that Mussolini may be forced to take sides between the two factions.

One group consists of "young intellectuals," and the other crowd is the strong-arm gang known as "Squadrist," which served Fascism in its early days by forcing castor oil down the throats of dissenters.

## ECONOMIC PROGRESS IS BASED ON UNITY

Detroit, July 16.—Economic progress must be based on co-operation and labor must be assured better and better working conditions, said Rev. William A. Bolger of Notre Dame University, at the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems, in session here.

"A rational economic order must do three things," said Fr. Bolger. "It must provide a living wage, not alone for the day, but for all the ordinary contingencies which cut off that wage. It must provide a living wage through illness, accident, age, death and unemployment. It must provide reasonable working conditions for all and it must bring about a condition of affairs in which there will be property ownership. In pleading for co-operation in industry, the speaker said that antagonism "has brought on industrial epidemics which commercialises bigotry and ignorance."

Frederick P. Kenkel of St. Louis, president of the conference, called attention, in his annual report, to the ever increasing concentration of capital, the danger of a monopolistic oligarchy in contrast to political democracy, and how "capital's mastery of economic life has enabled it by power to make political aspirations for liberty a dream."

## LUDLOW TENT MURDERS AGAIN IN PUBLIC EYE

Denver, July 16.—The "Ludlow massacre" in 1914 is recalled by Col. Patrick J. Hamrock's opposition to the appointment of John R. Lawson as State coal mine inspector investigator.

Hamrock is a member of the State civil service commission. He says Lawson is "unfit to hold public office."

Hamrock commanded guards that wore the uniform of the State militia in 1914 when they set fire to the Ludlow tent colony maintained by United Mine Workers during the strike against the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. The guards killed and burned 33 men, women and children. Lawson was active in the strike. Southern Colorado swarmed with gun men and thugs. One of them was killed and Lawson was charged with the murder. In 1917 he was sentenced to life imprisonment but was acquitted when a manufactured frenzy died down.

### WAGE SLASH REJECTED BY OHIO COAL MINERS

Columbus, Ohio, July 16.—Ohio coal operators have given an ultimatum of coal owners to accept a wage scale based upon the 1917-scale or see the mines opened with non-union labor.

The unionists counter with an invitation to the owners to hold a joint conference.

The coal owners have heretofore refused to enter a conference unless wage cuts were assured.

### PLUMBERS WIN STRIKE

Vancouver, Canada, July 16.—Plumbers won their eight-weeks' strike and raised wages 50 cents a day. The union shop and five-day week are retained.

The strike exposed the hypocrisy of employers who oppose workers affiliating with the American Federation of Labor. These employers shout, "Canada for Canadians," but found it convenient to forget this slogan during the strike and import strikebreakers from the United States.